

CLAIMS

1. Composition comprising an oil phase, an aqueous phase, at least one emulsifier of water-in-oil (W/O) type, at least one emulsifier of oil-in-water (O/W) type, characterized in that the said composition is an inverted latex comprising from 20% to 60% by weight, and preferably from 25% to 45% by weight, of a branched or crosslinked anionic polyelectrolyte based on at least one monomer possessing a strongly acidic function, copolymerized either with at least one monomer possessing a weakly acidic function or with at least one neutral monomer.

2. Composition as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the said anionic polyelectrolyte is the result of a copolymerization of its precursor monomers, which is carried out at a pH below 4.

3. Composition as defined according to ~~either of Claims 1 and 2~~ characterized in that 30% to 90%, of the monomer units which comprise the anionic polyelectrolyte have a strongly acidic function.

4. Composition as defined in ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~, for which the strongly acidic function of the monomer containing it, is a sulphonic acid function or a phosphonic acid function, partially or totally salified and the said monomer is preferably 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulphonic acid partially or totally salified in the form of an alcalimetal salt or in the form of ammonium salt.

5. Composition as defined in ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~, for which the weakly acidic function of the monomer containing it, is a carboxylic acid function, and the said monomer is preferably chosen from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid and maleic acid, partially or totally salified.

6. Composition as defined in ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~, for which the neutral monomer is chosen from 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 2,3-dihydroxypropyl methacrylate, or an ethoxylated derivative, with a

0923317 011999

molecular weight between 400 and 1000, of each of these esters.

7. Composition as defined in Claims 1 to 4 or 6, comprising an oil phase, an aqueous phase, at least one emulsifier of water-in-oil (W/O) type and at least one emulsifier of oil-in-water (O/W) type, characterized in that the said composition is an inverted latex comprising from 20% to 60% by weight, and preferably from 25% to 45% by weight, of a branched or crosslinked, anionic polyelectrolyte based on partially or totally salified 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, copolymerized with 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate.

8. Composition as defined in Claim 7, characterized in that 30% to 90%, preferably 50% to 90%, in molar proportions, of the monomer units comprised by the anionic polyelectrolyte is 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid partially or totally salified in the form of an alkali metal salt or an ammonium salt, in particular a composition as defined above, for which the anionic polyelectrolyte includes, in molar proportions, from 60% to 90% of sodium or of ammonium salt of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid and from 10% to 40% of 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate.

9. Composition as defined in one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the said composition is an inverted latex comprising from 20% to 60% by weight, and preferably from 30% to 45% by weight, of a branched or crosslinked, anionic polyelectrolyte based on a 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid which is partially or totally salified in the form of the sodium salt or of the ammonium salt copolymerized with acrylic acid, partially salified in the form of the sodium salt or of the ammonium salt.

10. Composition as defined in <sup>Claim 1</sup> ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~, characterized in that the anionic polyelectrolyte is crosslinked and/or branched with a diethylenic or polyethylenic compound in a molar proportion, expressed

002317.0199  
65570.228250

11. Composition as defined in Claim 10, for which the crosslinking agent and/or the branching agent is chosen from ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, sodium diallyloxyacetate, ethylene glycol diacrylate, diallylurea, trimethylolpropane triacrylate or methylenebisacrylamide.

Claim

tion as def  
, in particu  
f the emuls  
(0) type and  
from 75% to  
of the

Claim

16. Composition as defined in <sup>any one of Claims 1</sup>~~any one of Claims 1~~ to 15, characterized in that it also contains one or more additives chosen in particular from complexing agents, transfer agents or chain-limiting agents.

### Claim 1

Paul AB

b) the polymerization reaction is initiated by introducing a free-radical initiator into the emulsion formed in a), after which the reaction is left to

proceed,

c) when the polymerization reaction is complete, one or more emulsifiers of oil-in-water type are introduced at a temperature below 50°C.

5 18. Variant of the process as defined in Claim 17, according to which the reaction medium obtained after step b) is concentrated by distillation before step c) is carried out.

a 19. Process as defined in either of Claims 17 and 10 18, in which the polymerization reaction is initiated by a redox couple, such as the cumene hydroperoxide/sodium metabisulphite couple, at a temperature below or equal to 10°C, and is then carried out in a virtually adiabatic manner up to a temperature above or equal to 40°C.

a 20. Process as defined in one of Claims 17 to 19, in which the starting aqueous solution is adjusted to a pH below or equal to 4 before step c) is carried out.

20 21. Use of the composition as defined in one of Claims 1 to 16, for preparing a cosmetic, dermo-pharmaceutical or pharmaceutical topical composition.

a 22. Cosmetic, dermo-pharmaceutical or pharmaceutical composition comprising from 0.1% to 10% by weight of an inverted latex as defined in one of 25 Claims 1 to 16.

23. Composition as defined in Claim 22, in the form of a milk, a lotion, a gel, a cream, a cream-gel a soap, a foam bath, a balm, a shampoo or a conditioner.

a 24. Soothing composition for sensitive skin, 30 comprising an inverted latex as defined in one of Claims 1 to 16, and one or more N-acylated amino acids.

003347 076600

add  
B1 7